

Attached are 6 sheets of proposed drawing corrections indicating in red the proposed changes to the drawings. Approval of the drawing changes is respectfully requested. Filed concurrently herewith is a transmittal to the Official Draftsperson along with the formal drawings incorporating the changes indicated, in anticipation of approval by the Examiner.

Also attached are 7 sheets of proposed specification corrections with markings to indicate changes made. Instructions for the proposed changes are listed below.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing docket no. 1001/216. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed, for that purpose.

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

DI "FIGS. 3-1 and 3-2 is an illustrative embodiment in the form of a flowchart of the process by which the operating system and agent are able to start up and run simultaneously."

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 20, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

DI "FIGS. 4A-1 and 4A-2 is an illustrative embodiment in the form of a flowchart showing the Agent's work cycle according to an embodiment of the invention."

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 35, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

J³ "FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C are illustrations of alternatives to loading of the Agent."

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line ~~29~~²¹, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

D⁴ "FIG. 14E, 14G are portions of an illustrative embodiment in the form of a flowchart showing the agents' work cycle according to an embodiment of the invention."

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line ~~33~~³, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

J⁵ "FIG. 14F is a portion of an illustrative embodiment in the form of a flowchart showing the agents' work cycle for the Internet application."

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line ~~22~~¹⁰, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

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cont.
"FIGS. 3-1 and 3-2 is a flow chart of the agent work cycle. This work cycle describes the method by which the Agent is loaded when the client computer 10 is initially turned on or reset, and the manner in which the operating system and the agent run concurrently. In this illustrative embodiment, the Agent is embedded in software. Once the client computer 10 is powered on 11, it performs a power on self-test (POST) 12. The POST tests the system hardware, initializes some of the devices for operation, and loads the master boot record (MBR) 13. Since the MBR was installed with an Agent subloader, the subloader is loaded into memory 14 and executed. The subloader's first task is to load the Agent into memory 15 (which is discussed in detail below in reference to FIG. 5.) Then the subloader loads the operating system (OS) into memory 16 and returns

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control to the operating system. Now both the operating system 17 and the Agent 18 are running simultaneously."

The paragraph beginning on page 21, line ³16, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

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"In alert mode the Agent will attempt to call the host eighteen times per second until it is successful. Once in alert mode, the Agent does a thorough search within the computer to find free (not currently being used by any running application) communication equipment 20. In an illustrative embodiment, the communication equipment comprises a modem 9. It is contemplated herein that different communication mechanisms (i.e., modem, satellite link, RF link, etc.) can be provided at several of the communication ports. In such a scenario, the Agent would poll the communication ports (corresponding to the different communication mechanisms) to find free communication equipment. If the Agent fails to find any free equipment, then the Agent will abort its attempt to call the host and repeat the cycle 18 within one-eighteenth of a second. However, if the Agent locates free communication equipment, it will call the host 21. Upon receiving a call from the client computer 10, the host examines the Agent identity, which according to the preferred embodiment is the serial number of the client computer, and determines if a connection should be established 22. The host establishes a connection when the serial number of the computer contacting the host matches an entry on a list of reported lost or stolen computers. In an alternative embodiment, this call-filtering feature is eliminated and the host system establishes a connection whenever there is an incoming call. The list of reported lost or stolen computers is maintained within the host monitoring system C. If the host does not accept the call the Agent will not call back until the next appropriate time (after predetermined time period has elapsed) 18. If the host accepts the call, then

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Cont.

the Agent will send the host its encoded identity (such as its ESN), location (caller ID), any relevant serial numbers of computer components, such as CPU, hard drive, BIOS and any other desktop management interface (DMI) and any other pertinent information such as local date and time 23. The Agent then checks if the host has any data or commands for the client 24. If the host has no data or commands to be sent, then the Agent will terminate the call and repeat the cycle 18. Otherwise, the host will send the data or commands 25 before it terminates the call, and returns to "active" mode 18. This work cycle is described in much greater detail below with reference to FIGS. 14E, 14F and 14G."

24 24
The paragraph beginning on page ~~25~~, line ~~7~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

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"Once activated the Agent takes control of the whole computer 708. If it determines that it should call the Host computer, it follows the processes described in reference to FIGS. 4A-1, 4A-2, 4B and 4C. Basically, it finds a free communication port, establishes a communication link to the Host, sends its identity then relinquishes control back to the machine's start-up ROM procedure. After POST ended 713, the machine's start-up ROM procedure loads the operating system from disk 714, and passes control to it 715."

24 33
The paragraph beginning on page ~~25~~, line ~~16~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

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Cont.

"Referring to FIGS. 4A-1 and 4A-2, a flow chart is provided which describes one embodiment of the Agent work cycle in accordance with this invention. The Agent looks for communications ports to be used. There are two types of communications ports: the old by popular communications ports are called COM; and the new PCMCIA ports called

PCMCIA. Since COM is the more popular than PCMCIA, the Agent first looks for COM communications ports 322-338, if no COM communications ports are found then it will look for PCMCIA ports 338-350. To look for COM communications ports, the Agent checks all COM port addresses using COM port address table 333 to see if they exist 335. The first one encountered will be dynamically hooked 336 into by swapping the appropriate interrupt handler and unmasking the appropriate interrupt request line. If an error occurs, the next port will be checked 338, 334 until either a valid COM port is found or the COM port address table has been exhausted 338. If the COM communication port responds properly, then attempt to check if a modem is currently connected to this COM communications port via issue of the Hayes compatible AT command 339. If the modem does not exist, then the next port will be checked 338. If the modem exists it will respond with an "OK" to the AT command 341."

The paragraph beginning on page ²⁷~~28~~, line ²⁷~~19~~ and ending on page 28, line 22, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

"Instead of making a modem call via the PSTN, the BIOS Agent may be configured to communicate with the host monitoring server via the Internet in a similar fashion as explained in reference to FIGS. 3-1 and 3-2."

The paragraph beginning on page ²⁹~~30~~, line ²⁴~~12~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

"Referring now to FIG. 14F, a flow chart is provided which describes in detail the background process operations relating to the Internet application. The background process wakes up every four hours 200. It uses the current date and time together with the agent identification (serial number) to encode an Internet host name 205. This

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encoded host name is used in forming a DNS query 206 to be sent to the host Internet monitoring subsystem 9y. After sending this DNS query to the host Internet monitoring subsystem 9y through the Internet 207, the agent waits for a response 208. If an error is found 208a due to a missing DLL or poor TCP/IP configuration, or an error other than a timeout, then the agent will wait for four hours and repeat the cycle 200. If no response is received after a predetermined time period has elapsed, the agent will sleep for one minute 209 and then send another DNS query 205. Upon receiving a valid response from the host Internet monitoring subsystem 9y, the Internet Protocol (IP) address is extracted 210. If this IP address equals "204.174.10.1" 211 then the background process sets the agent's mode to alert 212. If the IP address does not equal "204.174.10.1" 211, then the agent remains in active mode and does not attempt to send another DNS query to the host for four hours 200."

The paragraph beginning on page ³²~~33~~, line ¹⁸~~10~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

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"Referring to FIGS. 14E and 14G, the following is a detailed description of the agent work cycle with respect to the PSTN application. Once the system is powered on 117 a timer interrupt will occur 18.2 times per second. Every eighteen timer interrupts, the complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) real-time clock will be accessed, and the time and date will be stored for comparison with the previous real-time clock access. If the date and/or time changes towards the future, no action will be taken to track the time displacement. In this way the agent determines whether it is time to call the host 118. Thus if the current date has advanced far enough into the future (past the date and time to call the host), the agent security system will change its mode of operation from active to alert whereby calls will be regularly attempted (eighteen times

per second) until a call is made and a transaction with the host server has been completed.

If the system time has been backdated, a modal change from active to alert will occur.

This feature safeguards against a thief disabling the agent by backdating the client so that the agent does not call the host for a long period of time.”

D18
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The paragraph beginning on page ³⁶~~38~~, line ³⁰~~3~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

D13

“Another configuration of the BIOS Agent is shown in FIG. 6B. The agent is implanted into the computer’s BIOS 731 and/or bootstrap BIOS. When the computer is turned on or reset, the Agent loads itself into memory and checks for an image of itself on the computer’s hard-disk 732. If an image of the Agent is found, that image is refreshed 733 and run from the disk 734. If an image is not found, one is created on the disk 735. The newly created image is then loaded into memory and run from the disk 734.”

The paragraph beginning on page ³⁷~~38~~, line ³~~14~~, has been deleted and replaced with the following:

D14

“Turning to the operating system independent methods, referring to FIG. 6C, the Agent is implanted into the computer’s BIOS 741 and runs directly from the BIOS 742. As more fully discussed below, variations of the BIOS Agent may include implanting the Agent in a DSP of a modem, a CPU of the electronic device, a hard wired circuitry or an integrated circuit in the electronic device.”

Respectfully submitted,

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